

AEROSOL SPRAY RESISTANT TO DISCOLORATION
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED

RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates to sprays designed to deliver active ingredients, such as insecticides, fragrances and cleaners. More particularly it relates to aerosol sprays that contain limonene (for orange fragrance and solvent purposes) as well as additional chemicals to minimize can corrosion and discoloration during storage.

[0004] A variety of sprays are known. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,773,016 describes aerosol emulsion sprays formed from water, hydrocarbon solvent, surfactant, insecticide(s), and hydrocarbon gas propellant(s). This patent also describes the desirability of adding sodium nitrite, sodium benzoate, or mixtures thereof to reduce can corrosion during storage.

[0005] U.S. patent 5,792,465 described relatively stable microemulsions used to deliver insect control agents, as well as the possibility of adding propane/isobutane mixtures as a preferred propellant. This patent also noted that d-limonene (an element of orange oil) could be added as well, as a solvent.

[0006] In separate work it has been suggested to add butylhydroxytoluene ("BHT") to some insecticidal mixtures, primarily for its antioxidant properties (to protect actives).

[0007] While the art has therefore suggested the use of limonene in certain sprays, such formulations tend to quickly discolor, particularly in the presence of the anti-corrosive agent sodium nitrite. This can make a consumer less willing to use such a spray in the home, even though orange fragrance is highly desirable.

[0008] Hence, a need exists for improved spray formulations containing limonene.

[0009] BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In one aspect the invention provides an aerosol spray that contains at least 20% (preferably about 50%) water, at least 1% (preferably about 10%) hydrocarbon solvent, at least 0.1% (preferably about 1%) surfactant, at least 0.1%

(preferably about 2%) limonene, at least 0.01% (preferably about 0.5%) butylhydroxytoluene, at least 0.01% (preferably about 0.2%) alkali metal benzoate (preferably sodium benzoate), and at least 0.01% (preferably about 0.4%) of an active selected from the group consisting of pest control materials (e.g. insecticides, insect repellants or insect control growth regulators), fragrances, odor masks, and disinfectants. Unless stated to the contrary, all percentages set forth herein are weight percentages. The spray is preferably in the form of an aerosol spray containing a gas propellant.

[0011] Preferred hydrocarbon solvents (apart from the gas propellant) have between 6 and 20 carbons. Examples include hexane, benzene, toluene, xylene, mineral spirits, mineral oil, heavy aromatic naphtha, kerosene, paraffins, isoparaffins, and other alkanes and alkenes. A particularly preferred hydrocarbons is the Norpar 13 solvent from Exxon.

[0012] The surfactants can be chosen from a variety of cationic, anionic, amphoteric and nonionic surfactants known to be useful in connection with aerosol emulsion sprays for delivering actives, with nonionics and anionics being particularly preferred. In this regard it is preferred to use a mixture of sorbitan monooleate and polyethoxylated stearic acid as the surfactants when formulating an insecticidal spray.

[0013] Other suitable nonionic surfactants, depending on the active and application, include polyethoxylates derived from primary and secondary aliphatic alcohols having from 8 to 24 carbons atoms in the alcohol alkyl chain. Part or all of the ethylene oxide may be replaced by propylene oxide. Still other suitable nonionic surfactants may include polyoxyalkylene alkyl phenols; polyalkylene esters of the higher organic acids having 8 or more carbon atoms in the acid hydrophobe and 10 or more moles of ethylene oxide as a hydrophilic group; polyalkylene alkyl amines whose hydrophobic group is from a primary, secondary or tertiary amine and whose ethylene oxide content is sufficiently high to impart both water solubility and nonionic characteristics, usually derived from fatty acids with 8 or more carbons; polyalkylene alkyl amides having a hydrophobic group derived from an amide of a fatty acid or ester; fatty acid esters of glycols, polyalkylene oxide block copolymer and the like.

[0014] Representative of possible suitable anionic surfactants (depending on active and application) include alkyl aryl sulfonates of 6 to 20 carbons atoms in the alkyl group; C₁₀ -C₂₂ fatty acid soaps; C₁₀ -C₂₂ fatty sulfates; C₁₀ -C₂₂ alkyl

sulfonates, including the alkali metal salts of the higher alkyl and linear paraffin sulfonic acids and salts thereof; alkali metal dialkyl sulfosuccinates, ethoxylated alcohol sulfates, phosphate esters, taurates, and the like.

[0015] A wide variety of cationic and amphoteric surfactants, of the types conventionally used in aerosol emulsion sprays, can also be used. However, they are not preferred because they tend to be somewhat more corrosive.

[0016] A variety of gaseous hydrocarbons can be used as the propellants. For purposes of this application, a "hydrocarbon" only has carbon and hydrogen. They typically liquefy under the pressure conditions of an aerosol can and become part of the hydrocarbon solvent. For example, the propellant can be dimethylether, difluoroethane, propane, butane, isobutane and mixtures thereof (preferably an isobutane/propane mix). A particularly preferred propellant is A-46 from Phillips Petroleum, a 80/20 mol % propane/isobutane mixture. Alternatively, the propellant could be another type of gas such as CO₂.

[0017] Where the active is a pest control ingredient, such as an ingredient effective against crawling or flying insects, the active may be a mixture of synthetic pyrethroids such as two or more of tetramethrin, permethrin, cypermethrin, cyfluthrin, allethrin forte, phenothrin, d-phenothrin, resmethrin, esbiothrin, allethrin, d-trans allethrin and kadethrin, and lambda-cyhalothrin, natural pyrethrum (e.g. pyrethrins), and organo phosphates such as chlorpyrifos. See also other insecticides listed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,037,653. Various synergists, such as piperonyl butoxide, may also be used.

[0018] The insect control agent can instead be a repellent such as citronella, lemon grass oil, lavender oil, cinnamon oil, neem oil, clove oil, sandalwood oil, or geraniol. Alternatively, the active can be an insect growth regulator such as hydroprene. Another type of active is a fragancer or deodorizer/mask. Some of the above oils such as lavender oil fulfill both a repellent and fragrance function.

[0019] Yet another type of active is a disinfecting agent such as orthophenyl phenol. These can also perform a deodorizing function in some cases.

[0020] Other ingredients (e.g. cosolvent alcohols) may also be included, depending upon the intended application. For example, a furniture polish might include a silicone for providing a shine.

[0021] When the spray contains a gaseous propellant and is pressurized in a can, the spray may be sprayed from the aerosol can into the air (in the case of a flying

insect killer), or against a surface (in the case of a crawling insect killer or cleaner). As an alternative, a pump spray container (without gas propellant) can be used in a similar manner.

[0022] In this latter form, the invention can provide a spray having at least 20% water, at least .1% limonene, at least .01% butylhydroxytoluene, at least .01% alkali metal benzoate, and at least .01%, of an active selected from the group consisting of insecticides, insect repellants insect control growth regulators, other fragrances, odor masks, and disinfectants.

[0023] An advantage of the present invention is that the sprays are substantially color stable over prolonged periods during storage. This is achieved without adversely impacting the effectiveness of conventional actives or the fragrance, or significantly increasing cost, or preventing the use of an anti-corrosive to protect the can.

[0024] These and still other advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the description which follows. In that description reference is made to certain preferred embodiments. However, the claims should be looked to in order to judge the full scope of the invention, and the claims are not to be limited to just the preferred embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0025] A. Overview

[0026] Preferred forms of the present invention are aerosol emulsion sprays with insecticidal active. These typically have water, surfactants, hydrocarbon solvent, propellant gas, and one or more actives. In accordance with the present invention, we also add BHT as an antioxidant to protect the active, limonene as a preferred desired fragrance (and additional solvent), and (in preferred forms) sodium benzoate as a corrosion inhibitor.

[0027] B. Examples/Comparative (ingredients by weight percent)

chemical	Formula A	Formula B	Formula C	Formula D	Formula E
sodium benzoate	0.20	--	--	--	--
sodium nitrite	--	--	0.10	--	0.10
sorbitan monooleate surfactant	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24
stearic acid	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66

ETO adduct, 3.5 mols, surfactant					
Norpar 13 hydrocarbon	10.39	10.39	10.39	10.39	10.39
neopynamin forte/ tetramethrin	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
permethrin	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
BHT	0.50	--	--	0.50	0.50
d-limonene	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
A-46 isobutane/ propane	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
water	49.8	50.5	50.4	50.0	49.9
color change results					
after 27 days	clear	clear	yellow tinge	yellow tinge	golden
number rating 0-5	0	0	1	2	5

[0028] C. Test Data

[0029] With respect to formulas A-E, one ("A") had both BHT and sodium benzoate, one had neither and no sodium nitrite ("B"), one had neither plus sodium nitrite ("C"), one had BHT and neither sodium nitrite or sodium benzoate ("D"), and one had BHT plus sodium nitrite with no sodium benzoate ("E"). The formulas were stored in a standard, albeit glass, aerosol container. I observed discoloration by visual observation technique as well as a subjective 0-5 ranking system with 5 being assigned to the sample with the most discoloration and 0 to the sample with no coloration, in each case after a 27 day simulated storage period.

[0030] While Formula B, without BHT and corrosion inhibitor is clear, when BHT was added (Formula D) there was discoloration even in the absence of corrosion inhibitor, which was similar in intensity to Formula C containing only sodium nitrite (and no BHT or sodium benzoate). When both sodium nitrite and BHT were added (Formula E), discoloration was even more intense. Surprisingly, when sodium benzoate replaced the sodium nitrite, as shown in Formula A, there was essentially no appreciable discoloration of the formula.

[0031] Thus, the presence of the three elements (limonene, BHT, alkali metal benzoate) act synergistically, while providing a desired fragrance and corrosion

inhibition. Importantly, this is achieved without significant interference to insecticidal activity, and at acceptable cost.

[0032] An alternative formulation designed for a non-aerosol pump spray is as follows (ingredients by weight percent):

<u>chemical</u>	<u>Formula F</u>
sodium benzoate	0.20
Triton X-193	3.0
neopynamin forte/tetramethrin	0.30
permethrin	0.11
BHT	0.50
d-limonene	1.8
water	94.09

[0033] While the above describes a number of preferred embodiments of the present invention, it will be appreciated that other embodiments are also within the scope of the invention. For example, other alkali metal benzoates should also be beneficial in combination with BHT. Moreover, the invention should also be useful with other actives. Thus, the claims which follow should be looked to in order to judge the full scope of the invention.

Industrial Applicability

[0034] The present invention provides improved aerosol sprays, particularly those that deliver insecticides, where the spray contains limonene and is resistant to discoloration during storage.